

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Trade Mission Facilitates Investment Opportunities for Georgia
- Preparation for Jury Trials Start in Tbilisi
- USAID and GoG Sign \$83 Million Assistance Agreement
- MCC Road Halves Travel Time from Tbilisi to Akhalkalaki

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U.S. Assistance to Georgia

OCTOBER 2010

U.S. Secretary of State Visits Georgia

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia on July 5th, 2010. During her visit, she led a town hall meeting with women leaders from civil society and government. She also met with President Mikheil Saakashvili, senior Georgian government officials, and representatives from Georgian political opposition parties.

During a meet and greet with embassy staff and family members, Secretary Clinton spoke of how the Tbilisi Mission



"has been essential to Georgia's recovery, including in the administering of \$1 billion in reconstruction and stabilization funding." She stated that the \$1 billion in assistance "has improved so many people's

lives by providing humanitarian relief and shelter to IDPs, rebuilding infrastructure, attracting investment, and revitalizing the Georgian economy."

Secretary Clinton expressed her appreciation for the Embassy's staff day in and day out service to strengthen and further the relationship between Georgia and the United States. "I am proud of what you and our Georgian counter-

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Ambassador Bass & Ambassador Yovanovitch Visit Samtskhe Javakheti

U.S. Ambassador John Bass and visiting U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Maria Yovanovitch, visited various USG projects in southern Samtskhe-Javakheti, an area bordering Armenia, in August 2010.

The Ambassadors travelled the new Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

funded road to Samtskhe Javakheti to visit projects aimed at increasing positive engagement between ethnic Armenians and Georgians in the area.



Ambassadors Bass and Yovanovitch meet with young people participating in the Rugby Supporters Alliance Summer Camp

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U.S. Assistance to Georgia “has improved so many people's lives by providing humanitarian relief and shelter to IDPs, rebuilding infrastructure, attracting investment, and revitalizing the Georgian economy. The work sent an important message of support and solidarity with the Georgian people, right in the moment when they needed it the most.”

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
July, 2010

Secretary Clinton's Visit cont.

parts have accomplished together.”

She highlighted the important role that the local staff plays in the success of our mission. “All of the locally-engaged staff, you are the backbone of this embassy community. And you provide the continuity, the expertise, and the insights that our mission needs to be successful.”

In speaking of the progress made, Sec-

retary Clinton acknowledged the work that lies ahead to support Georgia in ensuring a better future for its people and strengthening the important partnership between Georgia and the United States. She emphasized the importance of building on the partnership, not only with the Georgian Government, but with civil society and



Secretary Clinton with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili

with the Georgian people.

Ambassadors Visit Cont.

The Ambassadors toured a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded Dairy Processing and Packing Facility in the Village of Baraleti. The USDA-funded project was designed to support the dairy farmers of the region by upgrading the facilities' existing smoked cheese production equipment.

The Ambassadors visited the Rugby Supporters Alliance Summer Camp for Kids. Over eighty youth participated in the U.S Embassy supported Democracy

Commission Grants project. The Ambassadors' trip included four USAID events which highlight the diversity of assistance programs in the region, including a lunch at a rehabilitated guest-house, a tour of a farm machinery service center, recently opened through the USAID Access to Mechanization Project, a discussion with youth from the Civic Education Project and a meeting with local election observers trained through the Elections Support Program.



Ambassador Bass shakes the hand of a young Rugby fan

FACT: Samtskhe Javakheti is located on the southern part of Georgia, bordering Turkey and Armenia. 54% of the population of Samtskhe Javakheti is ethnic Armenian

USAID and Georgian Government Sign Assistance Agreement for \$83 million

Ambassador John Bass and Georgia's Minister of Finance, Kakha Baindurashvili signed an assistance agreement between the U.S. and Georgian governments on August 12th.

As part of the \$1 billion post-conflict pledge to people of Georgia, the U.S. Government is contributing approximately \$83 million in funding to improve municipal infrastructure, further eco-

nomie growth opportunities, and support persons displaced by conflict in the early 1990s and in 2008. The Government of Georgia will make contributions worth an estimated \$24 million to support the shared objectives of this agreement.

The agreement includes rehabilitation of a major irrigation system, support for small infrastructure projects, and upgrades to and rehabilitation of



Ambassador Bass and Georgian Minister of Finance Kakha Baindurashvili

housing for internally displaced persons.

Trade Mission Strengthens Business Ties

Eleven U.S. companies and 120 Georgian businesses participated in the third Georgia Trade and Investment mission in Tbilisi, Georgia from July 12-15, 2010 organized by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) together with Embassy Tbilisi.

The mission, led by USDA/FAS Assistant Deputy Administrator Gary Groves, promoted two-way trade and investment by linking private sector company representatives, and provided



USDA Assistant Deputy Administrator Groves and DCM Kent Logsdon participate in the Georgia Trade and Investment Mission

opportunities for U.S. businesses to meet with senior government officials including the Minister of Agriculture. Companies also had the opportunity to talk with USAID, MCC, EBRD, and SIDA regarding financing and assistance to the

agricultural sector.

The American Chamber of Commerce helped set up a series of one-on-one meetings for Trade Mission participants and local businesses, resulting in multiple potential deals, as well as discussion of joint ventures and partnerships.

Participants made contacts with Georgian businesses in a wide array of areas including berries, genetics, beverages, poultry/meat and equipment sales and development.

Potential deals from 3rd Georgia Trade and Investment mission include facilitating the sale of 3000 head of U.S. Holstein cattle to strengthen Georgia's stock, and contracts for equipment and technology sales.

USAID Launches Hydropower Investment Project

USAID launched the Hydropower Investment Promotion Project in June 2010. The Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP) is a three-year, \$8.9 million project that will help attract local and foreign investment to Georgia's energy sector in an effort to add 400 megawatts of clean, green renewable power to the Georgian grid. This new energy project will help move Georgia closer to energy independence and increase exports to fast-

growing, underserved energy markets in Turkey and Eastern Europe, providing a basis for future jobs and future growth.

HIPP is part of the U.S. Government's \$125 million post-conflict investment in Georgia's energy sector, and an important part of the U.S. Government's \$1



Enguri Dam, Georgia

billion pledge to the people of Georgia. HIPP will create jobs and provide opportunities for real economic growth, but most importantly, HIPP will allow Georgia to become a leader in the renewable energy export field.

The mock jury exercise has shown that the citizens of Tbilisi are ready to act as jurors and that they see this as an opportunity to become more involved in their court system—and as a chance to take pride in serving their country.

Jared Kimball
Regional Legal Advisor

RLA Conducts Mock Jury Exercise as Jury Trials Prepare to Start in Tbilisi

On October 1, 2010, the new Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) took effect in Georgia. The new CPC includes the introduction of jury trials for aggravated murder cases committed within Tbilisi City Court jurisdiction.

The U.S. Embassy through the U.S. Department of Justice Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) has been working with court leadership to

prepare for the challenges and benefits that will ac-



Tbilisi Residents Participate in Mock Jury Exercise

company the introduction of jury trials in Tbilisi.

In September, the RLA and the National Center

for State Courts (NCSC) conducted a mock jury empanelment exercise. The program involved sending 1,000 juror summons to qualified juror candidates in Tbilisi. The summons was delivered by messenger service using address information gathered from registered voter's lists.

Groups of 100 jurors were summoned to appear on a given day at Tbilisi City Court. In addition, 700 summonses were sent to prospective jurors to simply determine the number of persons who in fact receive the summons, and

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MCC Road Halves Travel Time from Tbilisi to Akhalkalaki

Travel time from Tbilisi to Akhalkalaki will be almost halve when the road opens in 2011.

As part of the \$395 million Compact between Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Georgia, rehabilitation is being carried out along 223 km of road in Kvemo Kartli

and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions.

The road links agricultural producers to markets in Tbilisi as well as creating improved opportunities for tourism and economic growth of the region.



The new road helps farmers get their products to markets in Tbilisi

“When the road is here we won’t be saying we are from Tsalke, we’ll be saying we are from Tbilisi”

Tariel Kakhadze
Guniakala Village

EXBS Donates Radiation Detectors

The Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) transferred a total of 93 personal radiation detection devices, worth more than 382,000 GEL, to the Emergency Situations Service within the Tbilisi Mayor’s office and to the Patrol Police Department of the Ministry of Interior of Georgia. Training on use of the new equipment, more commonly known as “pagers”, will be provided by the Nuclear Radiation Safety Service of



Chuck Hiscock, EXBS, greets Emergency Services Personnel

the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The personal radiation detection devices are meant to protect government officials and the

public, to increase Georgia’s security and to support Georgia in the international effort to control radioactive materials.

The EXBS program started operations in Georgia in 2006. It has invested more than 6 million dollars in equipment, training, and advisory support primarily focused on controlling the illicit transnational movement of weapons of mass destruction, their components and delivery systems.

IDP Outpatient Clinic Opens in Bazaleti

Chargé d’Affaires Kent Logsdon formally opened the Bazaleti IDP Outpatient Clinic in the Mtsketa-Mtianeti Region of Georgia.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Mr. Logsdon distributed medical and school supplies that were donated as

part of the U.S. Department of States’ humanitarian program.

The U.S. Department of State, under its Small Reconstruction Projects initiatives, provided United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) with \$12,000 in funds for the reconstruction of the outpatient clinic.



Chargé Kent Logsdon cuts the ribbon at the Bazaleti Clinic Opening

Jury Trials Cont.

who indicate an ability and intention to appear at court to serve as a juror. This juror summons exercise also includes a mock jury selection process.

According to Jared Kimball, RLA, the jury summons exercise proved to be a valuable

test for how the average Tbilisi resident will respond to the call to jury service. "Our feedback shows a positive view on jury service in overwhelming numbers", said Kimball. "We also had very positive feedback on the performance and professionalism of the judge, prosecutor and defense attorney—all of whom participated in a full mock jury selection on each day of this exercise."

USDA Cochran Fellowship Program Helps Farmers from Conflict Regions

Four farmers from Shida Kartli region, through the USDA Cochran Fellowship Program, received two weeks of training in Agribusiness Management and Project Development as part of the \$1 billion assistance to Georgia.

The training provided the Cochran Fellows with in-depth knowledge, advanced methods and skills of agribusiness management and project development. During the training the Fellows

formulated plans for applying their new knowledge and experiences to their businesses.

Upon their return to Georgia, three of the participants decided to join together to start a new business using "plasticulture" method and drip irrigation systems for tomato growing. They are growing tomatoes in Shida Kartli and are expecting a bumper crop.



USDA Cochran Fellows showing off their tomatoes grown using a new method

Ambassador Bass Welcomes New Group of 30 Peace Corps Volunteers

Ambassador John Bass participated in the graduation ceremony for the 10th group of Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Georgia.

The Ambassador used the opportunity to address a diverse audience of Georgians and Americans on the goals of the Peace Corps program and current U.S. assistance to Georgia. The volunteers



Ambassador Bass with new Peace Corps Volunteers

10 business advisors who have successfully completed a ten-week training program concentrating on Georgian language and culture while living with Georgian host families in and around Borjomi.

Volunteers will teach English at secondary schools or business support organizations in Adjara, Guria, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, and Kvemo Kartli.

include 20 English teachers and

Kvemo Kartli.

